

South Carolina's

Young Farmer & Future Farmer

Magazine

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On the cover: Andrew Carter is presented the keys to an Ill Case. Tractor he receives as the newly elected President of the South Carolina Association of Young Farmers.

Notes from the Executive Secretary

To FFA Members

by J. Earl Frick, Jr.

The State FFA Convention is scheduled to be held at Clemson University June 9 - 11, 1993. National FFA Secretary Kevin White will highlight the convention program this year, along with several motivational speakers. Your State FFA Officers have been working to make this convention exciting, educational and motivational for all who attend. Make your plans now to participate and have your chapter represented at this year's convention.

April 15 is the deadline for submitting applications, both chapter and individual, in the FFA Contests and Awards program. Eligible members can receive cash awards and trips to the National Convention in Kansas City. A broad range of awards are available, so check with your advisor to determine

what your area of eligibility might be. Participation in the FFA Contest and Awards program is a privilege of membership, and you should take advantage of this opportunity.

The Cherry Grove FFA Camp located at North Myrtle Beach will open for business on May 31 this year, and will be available for you to camp May 31 - June 4, June 14 - June 18 and June 28 - July 2, 1993. The cost to each camper is a very reasonable \$30.00 for the week's stay. A week of leadership training will also be offered June 22 - 25, 1993 for chapter officers and potential officers to hone their leadership skills. The cost for the leadership conference is \$24.00. Check with your chapter advisor and plan to attend and participate in the summer camping program. 🐾

To Young Farmers

by Steve Willis

The 45th Annual State Young Farmer Convention held in January 1993 at The Radisson Plantation in Myrtle Beach was an outstanding success. Attendance was good this year with almost 300 Young Farmers, wives, and guests participating. The Executive Committee attributed this to a more favorable market and attitude in the agricultural industry. Sponsors, which are a very important part of the program, were given great exposure, and attendees were able to tour their exhibits on Friday and Saturday. Next year we will be at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville, the premier hotel of Greenville. Mark this on your calendar now; you will not want to miss it.

As we start the new year, the officers have set as their goal increased participation of the membership. They also have committed to visiting chapters to promote our programs. The Executive Committee, based on comments at the Convention, are considering more changes in the Convention format, and in the contest and awards area.

Chapters should have already submitted their membership rosters.

Rosters were due back to the State Association no later than February 28, 1993. Teachers that do not have a chapter should organize one. A Young Farmer Chapter at the school can be a very valuable asset to the entire program as well as the community; and it is also the best way to satisfy one of the requirements of a twelve-month program.

This is a busy time of the year for farmers and teachers alike. Farmers are trying to get land ready, and crops planted. Teachers are beginning their contests and planning for the end of the year. Most of the events for the year will be planned in the first quarter of 1993. Among these are the Summer Tour.

Plans are already in place for the Hickory Tavern Chapter to host this event July 23-24 near Laurens, SC. The headquarters hotel will be the Quality Inn at the intersection of I-26 and Hwy 76. Reservations will be accepted until July 10 at a rate of \$32.00. Call 803-833-5558 for yours now. Stewart Glenn and his chapter are planning a great Summer Tour so make your plans to attend and participate in this event. 🐾

And now...

A Word from the President

Summer is on its way and that means two things...it's time for State Leadership Camp and for the State FFA Convention!

I don't doubt that several of you are wondering what opportunities you would have at an SC FFA Camp? Well, besides having the convenience of a swimming pool, basketball gym, volleyball court, and putt-putt golf course all located at Cherry Grove at Myrtle Beach; you also have the opportunity to gain leadership skills and make new friends. These camps will be week-long events and will take place May through the end of June. But, of course, if you're thinking about running for a State office or just wanting to develop your leadership skills, you might want to attend the Chapter Office Leadership Conference on June 22-25.

Then you have the SC State FFA Convention June 9-11! As usual, your State officers (Thomas, Jennifer, Kim, Henry, Wendell and I) will be trying to make this 66th SC FFA Convention the best ever! We've invited Scott Freidman as the motivational speaker for Thursday, June 10th, of our convention. And for those who have heavy eyelids during early morning speeches, Frank Hayes - a

local comedian - will lift your spirits. And let's not forget National Secretary Kevin White, who will attend and speak at our convention. This year your State officers are trying to make this (as I said before) the best State convention ever. So we're thinking of adding an extra contest to the events...a volleyball contest! If you're interested, get in touch with one of your State officers.

This year's convention will also host the traditional contests of ag mechanics, public speaking, farm business management, parliamentary procedure, floriculture, nursery/landscape, and (my personal favorite) the FFA creed speaking contest. And if you're not competing, there's also the State delegate process to participate in. Delegates discuss and vote on important issues that affect our State association.

So, before summer gets here, start preparing to take part in these events that the FFA offers you. If you have any questions, you can ask your advisor or just write one of your State officers. Participation is the only way to see for yourself that the FFA can offer you countless opportunities and exciting experiences. 🐾

Reach Out and Touch Someone

Your State FFA officers are here to serve you - the members of the South Carolina Association of FFA. With that in mind, if you have any ideas, comments, questions, etc. that you feel may benefit the FFA, feel free to write to them at following addresses. They'd LOVE to hear from you!

Patrick Stone, State President
P.O. Box 8370, Clemson, SC 29632

Thomas Dismukes, State Secretary
7559 Lone Oak Rd., Spartanburg, SC 29303

Henry Poole, State Vice-President
2603 Pine Street, Pelion, SC 29123

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Route 2, Box 42,
Abbeville, SC 29620

Wendell Bruner, State Vice-President
P. O. Box 93,
Neesee, SC 29107

Young Farmer of the Year... Mickey Johnson



Young Farmer of the Year Mickey Johnson and his wife Suzanne display their awards.

It has been said that the definition of a true Renaissance man is one who thrives upon a multitude of talents. If that is the case, then Mickey Johnson is the personification of the definition and is most certainly the reason he was chosen as the 1992 Young Farmer of the Year.

This 30-year-old Clemson graduate certainly seems to have it all...a beautiful family, a successful business, and a bounty of outside activities to keep him busy year-round. However, it is his diverse farming operation that has earned him special recognition. At Johnson Farms, which he owns with his father and uncle, the main crops include corn, cotton, wheat, soybeans, and peanuts. Moreover, they also have 175 beef cows to complete the well-rounded picture of the total farm.

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Racing Toward a Richer Harvest

The picture for the 1993 national convention of Young Farmers certainly looks "rosy" this year, as it has been announced that the 27th Annual National Educational Institute will visit Louisville, Kentucky...home of the "Run for the Roses," The Kentucky Derby.

The Institute, this year entitled "Racing Toward A Richer Harvest," will be held December 8th through 11th at The Galt House Hotel. Several exciting events are scheduled for the tour, including visits to the Lexington Tobacco Market, the Ancient Age Distillery, Philip Morris USA, and the beautiful Brookside Farm, where many of the finest thoroughbreds in the world are kept in high style...even the barns have chandeliers.

However, according to Institute committee member Robert Richardson, the highlight of the tour will occur on the evening of Friday, December 10th, as all attendees will be taken to historic Churchill Downs for dinner on Millionaires Row and an evening of fun. After the banquet, the betting windows at the racetrack will open for hours of mock races, with play money and prizes galore!

Charles Edens, past president of the South Carolina Association of Young Farmers is hoping for a good turnout from the State for the '93 Institute. "We really do need to make a good showing at the Institute since the 1995 convention will be held in Charleston," he said. "We got the bid, but now we have to sell it. In the past few years, these Institutes have been held in states such as Idaho and Iowa that required air travel; but since Kentucky is within reasonable driving distance for most of us, there's no reason for many Young Farmers not to attend."

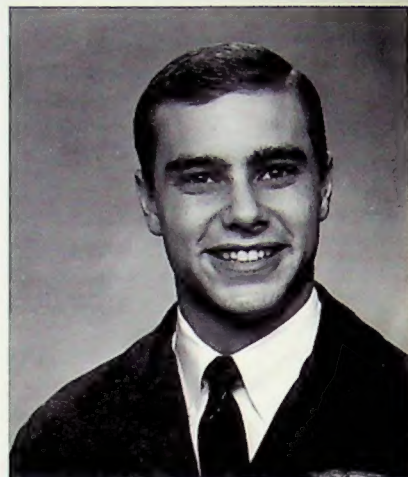
Reservations for the 27th National Young Farmer Educational Institute must be made by November 1st to receive the base registration rate of \$ 150.00 per person. After November 1st, registration is \$ 175.00 per person. For additional information, those interested in attending should contact Lynn Whittaker in Frankfort, Kentucky at (502) 564-3775. 🐾

A Keynote Speaker of National Prominence

Kevin White, the newly-elected National FFA Secretary, will deliver the keynote address at the 66th annual State FFA Convention to be held June 9th through the 11th on the Clemson University campus. He will focus on strengthening agricultural educational programs and increasing participation in organization activities.

This busy 20-year-old from Redding, California was elected to his position at the 65th National FFA Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri, late last year. He previously served the California Association as Vice-President and was a recipient of a regional star in agribusiness award. His SAEP consisted of a market and breeding swine operation, work as assistant manager of a feed and tack store, general ranch work and landscape development.

White is planning to pursue a career in agricultural policy development after receiving degrees in agribusiness and political science from California Polytechnic State University. His college days



Kevin White, 1993 National FFA Secretary, is slated to address the 66th Annual State FFA Convention.

have been put on hold for the time being, however, as in 1993 this national officer will travel over 200,000 miles promoting agricultural education and the FFA throughout the world. 🐾

Young Farmer Tour Scheduled to Visit Upstate

Plans are now in the works for the 1993 Young Farmer Summer Tour to be held July 23rd and 24th in the Laurens area. The Hickory Tavern Chapter, headed by advisor Stewart Glenn, is in the process of lining up several activities to keep those who attend quite busy! Some of the sites on the tour include both beef and dairy farm operations, the gigantic Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Park Seed Company, and race horse training stables.

Glenn says Hickory Tavern is ready to put on a good show. "We are really excited about the things we have planned for the tour," he said while discussing the

tour at the Young Farmer Convention in Myrtle Beach. "We think everyone will be very pleased with the diversity of the sites."

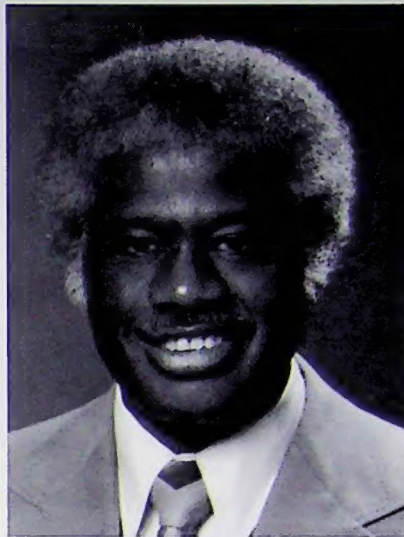
Headquarters for the tour will be the Comfort Inn, located at the intersection of I-26 and Highway 56 in Clinton, S.C. A special room rate of \$ 32.00 is available for all Young Farmers if they mention the tour when room reservations are made. Reservations may be made by calling the Comfort Inn at (803) 833-5558, with check-in and registration scheduled for 5:00 pm on July 23rd. For more information, contact Stewart Glenn at Laurens High School at (803) 682-3151. 🐾

A Legend Retires

It was Samuel Johnson who once wrote "Don't think of retiring from the world until the world will be sorry that you retire." If this is true, then it is time that Harold Mackey begin a life outside the classroom, as the world of academia will certainly regret the retirement of this very special individual.

On June 30th of this year, South Carolina's school system will lose one of its most valuable assets, as Dr. Harold J. Mackey will retire from his teaching duties at Belton-Honea Path High School. For more than 36 years, Dr. Mackey has enlightened students of agricultural science through his unique ability to bring out their own potential for excellence in the classroom. Awards and commendations numbering over 2,700 are a testament to this dedication.

Just some of his achievements (there are a staggering number of them) include his attendance at 34 State FFA Conventions, his service as a National FFA Contest Judge, and commendations for outstanding service from former United States President Richard M. Nixon and current Secretary of Education Richard P. Riley. He is also the author of teaching guides used state-wide, including the highly-acclaimed Guide for the



Dr. Harold J. Mackey

Socioemotional Adjustment in the Agricultural Education Classroom.

A busy man outside the classroom as well, Dr. Mackey serves as Chairman of the Board for First Union National Bank of Williamston and as a Deacon of New Prospect Baptist Church. Upon his retirement, Mackey will continue in these capacities, as well as enjoy traveling with

his wife and daughter.

The best description of Dr. Mackey's contributions to the community, however, may have come from his fellow teachers at Belton-Honea Path, who in 1992, nominated him for the prestigious Reader's Digest American Heroes in Education Award. The following is an excerpt from the application submitted by the BHP faculty.

"As a teacher, Dr. Harold J. Mackey has always been interested in his students as people. He accepts them as they are - regardless of their ability, background, or personality and genuinely loves and cares for them. He respects their rights, listens well to their problems, shares a smile, offers a caring arm around a shoulder, and gives encouragement or a well-deserved reprimand when needed. He possesses the ability to inspire students to discover their untapped potential for excellence and success and instills in them the desire and determination to be productive citizens."

It is that kind of respect that is accorded Dr. Mackey by everyone he touches with his warmth and selflessness. South Carolina's educational community will definitely miss this most outstanding educator. 📌

Clemson Set to Host State FFA Convention

If the residents of Clemson, SC, thought that the summer would bring some peace and quiet to their small town with the completion of the '92-'93 academic year, they will certainly be in for quite an awakening when over 400 students from across South Carolina converge upon Clemson University for the 1993 State FFA Convention. The three day event will bring together students, advisors, guests and friends to conduct a little business, hand out a lot of awards and enjoy tons of fun!

Slated for June 9th through the 11th,

the convention will feature many exciting and informative speakers, including National FFA Secretary, Kevin White of Redding, CA. Others making appearances will be Dr. Max Lennon, President of Clemson University, Dr. Nancy Dunlap of the State Department of Education, and Commissioner of Agriculture Les Tindal.

State FFA Executive Secretary Earl Frick has announced that among the awards presented at this year's convention will be one of very special importance. The Outstanding Service Award, one of the most prestigious honors given by the

organization, will be presented to former advisor Hugh P. McClimon for his many long years of service to the South Carolina FFA Association.

Two official delegates from each of the 111 chapters across the State will represent the membership in voting on business. According to Patrick Stone, State FFA President, key issues for discussion will be the development of the state program of activities for 1993-94, the selection of contest winners and awards, and the election of new State officers. 📌

Great Gathering on the Grand Strand

Close to 200 farmers from across the State descended on the tourist haven of Myrtle Beach in January for a weekend of sun, fun and a bit of business, as they gathered for the 45th Annual State Convention of the S.C. Association of Young Farmers.

Although the sun was somewhat lacking, fun could be found almost anywhere you looked throughout the three days of the conference.

Several business matters were discussed, both in executive session and at the banquets held on Friday and Saturday. One of the most important matters presented was the 1995 National Young Farmer Educational Institute, which is scheduled to be held in Charleston in December of that year. "The Charm of Charleston" is to be the theme of the event, which will truly be a labor of love based on the time and effort that will have to be invested over the next few years.

A variety of speakers addressed the convention attendees, including Dr. Muriel O'Tuel, noted educator, lecturer, and author of the book *Footprints on the Heart*. Dr. O'Tuel spoke on the importance of nurturing and caring in the



Steve and Marie Willis manage to slow down their teenagers just long enough for a quick family portrait!

workplace, and on the enduring qualities of work done today. She urged her audience to take stock and ask themselves "When all is said and done, what are you doing of lasting value?"

Others who addressed the Young Farmers on Saturday were Robert Richardson of the 1993 National Young Farmer Educational Institute, which will be held in Louisville, Kentucky; Patrick Stone, current SC FFA President; and State Commissioner of Agriculture D. Leslie Tindal.

State officers for 1993 were presented on Saturday, as well. Elected to serve on the executive committee were Andrew Carter of Colleton/Bamberg [President]; Gene Forrest of Edgefield [President-Elect]; Rex Bates of Hickory Tavern [Vice-President/District I]; David Wilson of Chester [Vice-President/District II]; Mickey Johnson of Hillcrest [Vice-President/District III]; Ronnie Myers of Bowman [Vice-President/District IV]; and Bill Nance of York [Past President].

The highlight of the convention was the announcement of the Young Farmer of the Year. Several deserving nominees were highlighted at the banquet on Saturday night, including Reggie Williams of Edgefield, Herby Lutz of Chester, and Rex Bates of Hickory Tavern. However, Pinewood's Mickey Johnson was named the award recipient for his highly successful farming operation.

Receiving unexpected, yet special



Commissioner of Agriculture D. Leslie Tindal addresses the banquet on Saturday.

recognition was former State Advisor and Executive Secretary Hugh P. McClimon, who received a commemorative plaque and Young Farmer jacket for his decades of selfless service to the organization. Current Advisor J. Earl Frick of Florence also received a jacket for all of his help in organizing the convention.

Once all the business was concluded, it was time to have some fun, as the annual casino night returned to the delight of those in attendance. Farmers and their guests were able to gamble for chips which could be used to "purchase" items at an auction held later. As in years past, the "little Las Vegas" was a huge success and enjoyed by all. 🍀



James Ulmer takes his chances on the roll of the dice.



The Harper family takes a minute to rest up after the long drive in from the upstate.



Dr. Muriel O'Tuel addresses the convention on its opening night.



Do these two really act like retirees? We think not! Advisors Earl Frick and Hugh McClimon share thoughts after the banquet on Saturday.



These two ladies prove that the beach wasn't the only beautiful site at the Young Farmer Convention!



Decisions, decisions...just how much to wager?

"Hail the Victors"

Award Highlights From the 45th Annual Young Farmers Convention

As the old saying goes, to the victor belongs the spoils. And so it was at the 45th Annual Convention of Young Farmers held in Myrtle Beach on January 15th and 16th. Several awards were presented to the "creme de la creme" in the farming industry for 1992. Following is a list of these top dogs, along with the categories in which they flourished:

Young Farmer of the Year: Mickey Johnson [Hillcrest/Dalzell]

Other Nominees:
Reggie Williams [Edgefield]
Herby Lutz [Chester]
Rex Bates [Hickory Tavern]

Outstanding Service Award: Hugh P. McClimon

1993 State Officers:
President: Andrew Carter [Colleton/Bamberg]
President-Elect: Gene Forrest [Edgefield]
Vice-President (Dist. 1): Rex Bates [Hickory Tavern]
Vice-President (Dist. 2): David Wilson [Chester]
Vice-President (Dist. 3): Mickey Johnson [Hillcrest/Dalzell]
Vice-President (Dist. 4): Ronnie Myers [Bowman]
Past President: Bill Nance [York]

Membership Awards:
Largest Number: Pendleton Chapter
Largest Percent: West Oak Chapter
Largest Attendance: Colleton/Bamberg Chapter

Chapter Contest Awards:
District I: Saluda Chapter
District II: Chester Chapter
District III: Hillcrest/Dalzell Chapter
District IV: Bowman Chapter

Chapter President Awards:
District I: Reggie Williams [Edgefield]
District II: Wesley McKeown [Blackstock]
District III: Sammy Burrows [Oswego]
District IV: Richard Rentz [Branchville]

Farm Service Center Award:
State Winner: Andy Gunter [Bowman]
2nd Place: Rusty Darby [Chester]

Beef Production Award:
State Winner: Jim Love [McConnells]
2nd Place: Andrew Carter [Ehrhardt]

Dairy Production Award:
State Winner: Herby Lutz [Chester]
2nd Place: Andy Clinton [Clover]



Your 1993 State Officers (L-R): Ronnie Myers, Mickey Johnson, David Wilson, Gene Forrest and Rex Bates. (not pictured - Andrew Carter and Bill Nance).



Wesley McKeown receives the Chapter President award from Bill Nance.



Jim Lofis of Gold Kist, Inc. presents the Chapter Award to David Wilson of Chester.

Young Farmers Convention Awards (continued)

Swine Production Award:

State Winner: Richard Rentz [Branchville]
2nd Place: Alvin Burdette [Westminister]

Five-Acre Cotton Award:

State Winner: Mickey Johnson [Pinewood]
2nd Place: William James [Sumter]

Non-Irrigated Corn Awards:

District II: Joey Wilson [Chester]
District III: Mickey Johnson [Pinewood]*
District IV: Jerry Breland [Ruffin]

Irrigated Corn Awards:

District II: Ricky Kneee [Pelion]
District III: Buddy Rivers [Sumter]
District IV: William Jameson [Orangeburg]

Non-Irrigated Soybean Awards:

District I: Kelly Thomas [Johnson]*
District III: Scott Hoffmeyer [Florence]
District IV: William Jameson [Orangeburg]

Irrigated Soybean Awards:

District I: Kelly Thomas [Johnson]*
District II: Ricky Kneee [Pelion]

Energy Efficiency Awards:

District II: William Covington [McConnells]
District III: William James [Sumter]
District IV: Marion Barnes [Ehrhardt]*

*Denotes State Winner



William Jameson and Buddy Rivers, winners in the irrigated corn contest.



Craig DeBrew of Carolina Power and Light presents the Energy Efficiency Award to Mr. and Mrs. Marion Barnes.

Young Farmer of the Year -

continued from page 3

Johnson himself is responsible for all of the planting, the harvesting of cotton and soybeans, and (as if he doesn't have enough to keep him busy) also keeps all the farming and financial records...with a little help from an agribusiness computer program that saves him over \$ 2,900.00 in accounting fees annually.

Raised on the farm from age 11, Johnson had little doubt that agriculture would be the direction he would pursue after college. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Mechanization from Clemson University in 1984, he returned to his family business where he found inspiration in those he had known all his life. "After graduation, I came directly back to the farm; and there I ran into the greatest teachers I know in the production of crops...my dad and uncle. They taught

me the meaning of a good work ethic; the value of a hard-earned dollar; and the feeling of producing a good crop, watching it grow all year and seeing the end result in the bin."

Another quality he inherited from his very special "teachers" was an appreciation for environmental concerns. "In my opinion, farmers were the first true environmentalists. Who would want to protect the land and environment more than the person who depends upon it for a living?" Johnson lives by this theory, as he cleans and calibrates spray equipment and disposes of all chemical containers (after they have been triple-rinsed and punctured) in a registered DHEC dumpster. "I enjoy the outdoors and I want my farm to be as nature intended," he states.

Not only does he enjoy the outdoors

as an occupation, Mickey Johnson is known to spend his free time there, as well. Among his hobbies are hunting, water skiing, sailing, archery, and outdoor photography. His number-one interest, however, is most definitely his daughter, Lauren, who is quite a handful at twelve months of age! "She is my full-time hobby," says this very proud daddy.

Johnson is Vice-President in the Young Farmer organization, a member of the Pinewood Lions Club, teaches Sunday school, and can even be found singing in the church choir! When looking at all his activities, it's amazing that he has enough hours in the day to fit them all in. However, they serve as the proof of his dedication to family and community that served as the basis for his selection as the 1992 Young Farmer of the Year. 🐾

FFA'ers Discover They are T

What do you get when you combine three National FFA staffers, over 50 students from across the State, and Mr. Happy? A GREAT TIME...as many of those who attended the 1993 Made for Excellence [MFE] Conference can tell you!

On February 6th, 57 FFA members from chapters all over South Carolina descended upon the Town House Hotel in downtown Columbia for one of the premier personal growth seminars held in the country. On that Saturday afternoon and the following Sunday, these students went through rigorous mental exercises, part of "The Olympic Challenge" (the theme of this year's MFE) designed to enhance their development both in the classroom and out of it.

The motivational classes were spearheaded by National FFA Staffers who had risen to State and national FFA officer status during their scholastic careers. Liz Jost, a current student at THE Ohio State University and former State officer from New Jersey, led much of the activity on Saturday afternoon; that is, when she wasn't playing the "straight man" for the comedy team that accompanied her. One member of that team, Carla Sellman, is a former Idaho state officer and a current college senior. Her claim to fame, however, may be her ability to deal with the constant ribbing she receives from the last member of this trio, former National Officer Matt Lohr, who is a student at Virginia Tech. These three, along with former South Carolina state officer Patrick Settle, presented a most entertaining and lighthearted look into some very serious subjects, such as personal strengths and weaknesses, risk taking, peer pressure, values inventory, and goal setting for the long run.

"We can all learn to fly higher when we're tied down to commitments, values, morals and goals," said Miss Sellman. It is this basic premise that is the foundation of MFE. "These two days allow these students to take a look at themselves; where they've been and where they want to go," explained Patrick Settle, adding "it really aims to bring out better students and leaders for the community." 🐾



Part-time conference leader and full-time student at THE Ohio State University, Liz Jost explains the importance of self-motivation.



Carla Sellman shows Charles Golden the proper way to handle "Mr. Happy".

Truly... Made For Excellence



With that smile, this MFE'er definitely has "The Winning Spirit".



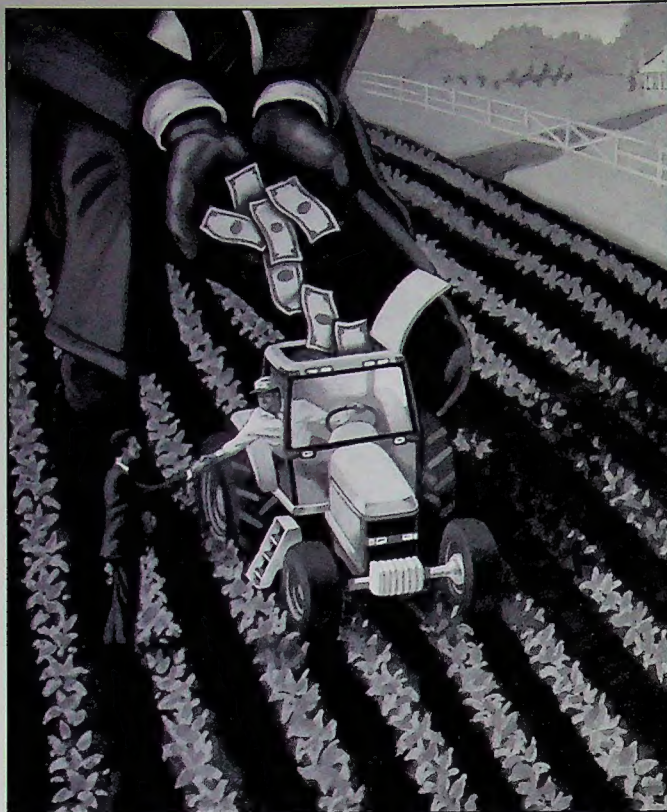
Always aware of a possible photo op, former National Officer Matt Lohr "takes a T.O." as Dick Vitale would say, to pose with one of the conference participants.



Faith Larimore begins "The Olympic Challenge".



Patrick Settle and Liz Jost pose with the most famous member of the staff, "Mr. Happy".



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